

REMARKS

Claims 2-11 and 13-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 12 have been canceled.

The Office Action dated September 15, 2003, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, the Abstract and the specification were objected to as containing typographical errors. These errors and other minor typographical errors have been addressed by the above amendment.

Claims 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. It was indicated that these claims would be allowable if the Section 112, second paragraph rejections were addressed and the claims rewritten to include the limitations of their base claims. This has been accomplished by the above amendment.

Claims 1-3, 5, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (JP 10-136391) in view of Tanaka. Claims 4 and 6-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are indicated to be allowable if amended to include the limitations of their base claims. By the above amendment, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, and claims 2, 3, 5 and 8 have been amended to depend therefrom. Claim 12 has been canceled and claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 14. Reconsideration and allowance of claims

2-11 and 13-17 are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for the inclusion of the language "to read out the signal charges of one of the separated colors." The examiner states that the signal charges for all the colors are read out. To clarify that the signal charges for all the colors are read out, the words "of one of the separated colors" have been cancelled from claim 14. It is believed that this amendment brings claim 14 into compliance with Section 112. Claims 13 and 15-17 depend from claim 14 and should also be in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By the above amendment, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form. It is therefore submitted that claim 4 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (JP 10-136391) in view of Tanaka. Claim 1 has been canceled by the above amendment. Claims 2, 3, and 5 have been amended to depend from claim 4 which is allowable for the reasons provided above. It is therefore submitted that claims 2, 3 and 5 are now also in condition for allowance.

Claims 6-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. These claims now depend from allowable claim 4 and are therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance.

In the examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claim 14, it is stated that, according to the claim language, "the charge is moved eight transfer sections according to the column transfer signal." The phrase "transfer section" is not used in the specification and thus the examiner's statement of reasons for allowance is unclear. However, it is respectfully submitted that the use of a four phase drive signal does not imply that a charge is moved eight lines according to a control transfer signal.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated September 15, 2003, has been addressed, and it is submitted that claims 2-11 and 13-17 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore the reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott T. Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the

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telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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